

From: Cathy Nicoloff
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:37am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to enter my opinion into the record as being against the proposed settlement with Microsoft.

Specifically, I am upset to see that the terms of the settlement do not refer to the documentation of Microsoft's endless supply of proprietary file formats such as their Windows Media files, Outlook mailboxes, Address books, Microsoft Office files, etc. These are a particular barrier to entry for any would-be software vendor, and this potentially knocks out of the market any competing products that would wish to edit/manipulate/import such files.

Also, the sloppy wording of the exemptions to disclosure allowed to Microsoft would mean that they might actually get away with refusing to disclose details about their operating systems and software due to "security reasons". I realize that vagueness might be necessary to cover all unforeseen circumstances a long way in the future, but I believe it is possible to make the entire document more specific and add a provision to allow changes at a later date (presumably after lengthy research and communication with the public).

Sincerely,
Catherine Nicoloff